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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Investigations of Graphitized Carbon Processed
 at the Bitterfeld Electrochemical Combine

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Siemens-Plania, Berlin-Lichtenberg, uses carbon graphitized at Elektrochemisches Kombinat Bitterfeld (EKB) for the production of carbon heating rods and electrodes. In an attempt to determine the exact reason why electrodes produced by Siemens-Plania fail to meet the specifications of electrodes produced in West Europe and the United States, and to put a competitive product on the world market, the Lichtenberg plant has decided to send several of their electrode specialists to EKB to check the procedures employed at Bitterfeld in the graphitizing process. Siemens-Plania is now of the opinion that there is a possibility that some change in the Bitterfeld processing may be responsible for impurities in the finished carbon being shipped to them.

2. [redacted] the probable reason for the inferior quality of the graphitized carbon from Bitterfeld is the interruption of the electric current supply at the plant, which may prevent a steady, controlled feeding of electricity to the graphitizing equipment and as a result cause fluctuations in temperature during the processing.

[redacted] as a result of pressure on the employees to meet production norms under these adverse conditions, the graphitizing plant personnel may have attempted to overcome these power failures by accelerating the heating schedule following a power failure, which would cause burned spots and irregular charring of the carbon.

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